

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06629 051646Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 ITC-01 AGRE-00 /056 W
-----126438 051655Z /47

O 051633Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5860
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, GR, ECIN
SUBJ: EC/GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS--MINISTERIAL
SESSION, APRIL 3, 1978

1. SUMMARY: THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL-LEVEL SESSION OF THE
EC/GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED APRIL 3 WITH
AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN POST-ACCESSION ARRANGEMENTS IN THE
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS SECTOR, BUT THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE
TO AGREE ON PROVISIONS RELATING TO REPATRIATION OF
CAPITAL. IN THEIR INITIAL REVIEW OF THE EXTERNAL
RELATIONS SECTOR, THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED, BUT TOOK NO
DECISIONS ON, THE TIMETABLE FOR GREEK ASSUMPTION OF
OBLIGATIONS DERIVING FROM EC AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD
COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS:

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06629 051646Z

ACCORDING TO EC COUNCIL AND PERMREP OFFICIALS, THE
MINISTERS REACHED AGREEMENT ON A LIST OF 14 INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTS (PRINCIPALLY CHEMICALS) ON WHICH GREECE WILL BE
ALLOWED TO MAINTAIN QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS
FROM OTHER EC MEMBER STATES DURING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
FOLLOWING ACCESSION. OUR SOURCES SAY THE LENGTH OF THIS
TRANSITION PERIOD WAS NOT DISCUSSED. TWO STEEL TUBING

PRODUCTS (TARIFF REFERENCES 75.13 AND 75.18) WERE DROPPED FROM THE GREEK LIST OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION DEMANDS WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THE EC WOULD NOT ACCEPT THEM. A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID BOTH OF THESE ITEMS ARE TO BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AFTER THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

3. THE MINISTERS ALSO AGREED ON A COMPROMISE THREE-YEAR TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BEFORE GREECE WILL BE REQUIRED TO DROP ITS IMPORT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT. GREECE HAD ASKED FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, WHILE THE COMMUNITY INITIALLY PRESSED FOR TWO YEARS.

4. MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL:

THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO AGREE ON PROVISIONS GOVERNING REPATRIATION OF CAPITAL, WHICH HAVE BEEN REFERRED BACK TO DEPUTY NEGOTIATORS. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THE GREEKS WERE PREPARED TO AGREE TO REPATRIATION OF INVESTMENTS BY COMMUNITY INVESTORS, BUT NOT TO UNRESTRICTED REPATRIATION OF PROFITS REALIZED ON INVESTMENTS MADE PRIOR TO GREEK ACCESSION. THE COMMUNITY HELD OUT FOR REPATRIATION OF BOTH.

5. EXTERNAL RELATIONS:

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06629 051646Z

THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED, PRELIMINARILY, BUT TOOK NO ACTION, ON THE TIMETABLE FOR GREEK ASSUMPTION OF OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THIRD COUNTRIES WHICH NOW BIND EC MEMBER STATES THROUGH EXISTING AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS GATT, THE LOME CONVENTION, AND THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS WITH MEDITERRANEAN STATES. THESE PRINCIPALLY CONCERN THE ABOLITION OF TARIFF BARRIERS ON PRODUCTS GREECE WOULD IMPORT FROM THOSE THIRD COUNTRIES AFTER ACCESSION. THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS ARE THE TWO LISTS OF PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN THE EC/GREECE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. ON THE FIRST LIST, WHICH INCLUDES PRODUCTS GREECE DOES NOT PRODUCE OR CONSIDER SENSITIVE (AND FOR WHICH THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE REMOVAL OF TARIFF BARRIERS AFTER 12 YEARS), THE EC WANTS GREECE TO ACCEPT ALL THIRD COUNTRY OBLIGATIONS FROM THE DATE OF ACCESSION, WITHOUT TRANSITION. ON THE SECOND LIST, WHICH INCLUDES PRODUCTS (LARGELY AGRICULTURAL) WHICH GREECE CONSIDERS SENSITIVE (AND FOR WHICH THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE REMOVAL OF TARIFF BARRIERS AFTER 22 YEARS), THE EC COULD AGREE TO A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

6. CALENDAR FOR NEGOTIATIONS:

IN ADDITION TO EXTERNAL RELATIONS, THE NEGOTIATORS ARE NEXT SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP THE COAL AND STEEL AND EURATOM CHAPTERS. THE NEXT MINISTERIAL NEGOTIATING SESSION HAS BEEN SET FOR JUNE 26. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THE COMMISSION IS TO SUBMIT ITS VIEWS ON AGRICULTURE BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK, ALTHOUGH THE FIRST NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SECTOR WILL NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE SEPTEMBER. MORRIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, COMMON MARKETS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE06629
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780147-0259
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS EEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780492/aaaaczpr.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c037db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3073031
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC/GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS--MINISTERIAL SESSION, APRIL 3, 1978
TAGS: ECIN, OCON, GR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c037db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014